

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Stidham Cabinet Inc

Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center

KMAC Helps Cabinet Maker Focus on Opening Doors to Growth

Client Profile:

Stidham Cabinets, Inc. is a fabricator of high-quality custom, commercial and residential cabinets and countertops. The family-owned and -operated business, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, has a product line that includes: Hartson & Kennedy® laminate countertops, Mouser® and AristoKraft® cabinets, and Gibraltar®, Zodiaq®, Corian®, and Cerfold® solid-surface countertops. In addition to their custom commercial casework, they also are a Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA) Certified manufacturer of HUD Severe Use cabinets, recognized in the marketplace as a durable, quality product. Stidham employs 30 people at their facility in Corbin, Kentucky.

Situation:

Product expansion and business growth over the years had led to space limitations and related inefficient workflow in specific areas of the Stidham plant. While implementing further plant expansion, Stidham management was interested in having a professional, third-party assessment to help meet improvement goals in the areas of capacity, workload scheduling, lead times, tasks delegation, job costing, employee development and retention, annual growth, and competitive knowledge. The Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center (KMAC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, was contacted and a meeting arranged to review KMAC services that would provide solutions to help Stidham achieve its goals.

Solution:

Led by KMAC Manufacturing Specialist Tim Vickers, KMAC proposed a process improvement project using selective methods of Lean Manufacturing principles. The first step included a three-day plant and process assessment of both their production and administrative areas using Value Stream Mapping (VSM) techniques to identify current and future opportunities for systematic improvements, and to develop an initial Lean Manufacturing implementation plan. The final plan included teaching and implementing 5S/Visual Workplace standards that included a one-day classroom introduction to 5S for key employees, followed by five days of hands-on implementation of action items and documentation techniques in five plant areas: Post Form, Self Edge, Custom, Solid Surface, and Warehouse. As an added bonus to Stidham, KMAC was able to secure partial underwriting of the project through a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Results:

- * Improved employee skills and work environment.
- * Improved profit margin.

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- * Increased revenue or cash flow.
- * Cost savings of \$35,000.
- * Increased investment in workforce practices or employee skills.
- * Increased competitive position.

Testimonial:

"Besides the tangible benefits of our project with KMAC, I think the key thing was the reinforcement to our personnel that there is a real bottom-line connection between everyday tasks that contain too much wasteful or inefficient activities and our company's profitability and growth . . . and the concept of continuous improvement. The KMAC staff was very professional, and we would use their services again in the future."

James Stidham, President